

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Amend Figures 17, 18, 19 and 20 as indicated in the annotated sheets of those drawings which have been marked in red to show the changes. Also attached are replacement sheets.

REMARKS:

This application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the Office Action dated September 26, 2005.

Reconsideration of that action is requested in view of the following.

In reviewing the application it was realized that Figures 17-20 were slightly inaccurate in that the guide surfaces 23 and 24 of Figures 17-18 and the guide surfaces 23, 24 and 21 of Figures 19-20 were slightly curved rather than being planar as clearly described in the specification. Accordingly, those figures have been amended for consistency with the specification. In that regard, with respect to Figures 17-18 page 29, lines 2-12 specifically refers to the surfaces 23 and 24 as being guide "planes". See also paragraph 50 of the published form of this application, U.S. 2004/0198198. As regards Figures 19-20 those figures show a three stage apparatus and the specification clearly refers to each stage as including a guide "plane". See, for example, page 33, lines 3-5 and 29-30 and page 34, lines 1-10 of this application and their corresponding portions in paragraph numbers 55, 57 and 58 of the published application. Note is also made to Figures 11, 14, 16 and 16a which clearly illustrate planar guide surfaces.

Claims 63 and 83 have been amended to delete reference to "non-extended". Accordingly, the claims should now clearly

comply with 35 USC 112.

Claims 87-88 have been added to complete the claim coverage. The Commissioner authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 03-2775 with respect to the fee required for these added claims.

Claim 87 is dependent on Claim 83 and relates to the practice of the invention wherein the moving edge of the blade is repeatedly wedged against the hardened surface between the hardened surface and the knife guide surface at the point of contact with the hardened surface. Support for this claim is found, for example, at page 26, lines 5-8 of the specification and in corresponding paragraph 46 of the published form of the application. Claim 87 thus relates to the spacial relationship of the elongated guide and the shaped hardened surface which is such that the moving edge is repeatedly wedged against the shaped hardened surface and is locally stressed by the wedging action at the point of contact until the stress hardening of the edge causes the edge to fracture into a micro serrated structure. The shaped hardened surface should be sufficiently close to the elongated guide surface that the shoulder of the blade (where the facet attaches to the blade) acts as a fulcrum to leverage and magnified the force of the hand (holding the blade down and against the guide) into a very large stress on the small contact area between a portion of the edge facet and the shaped hardened object. See Paragraph D of the attached Second Declaration of

applicant Friel which discusses Claim 87.

Claim 88 is dependent on Claim 63 and relates to the feature of the hardened object being displaceable by the force exerted by the blade against the restraining force of a resilient structure. No new matter is involved with Claim 88 since it is based on and fully supported by original Claim 26.


The allowance of Claims 81-82 and the indication of allowability of Claims 79-80 is noted with appreciation. At present, Claims 79-80 have been left in dependent form in view of the position of applicants that parent Claim 63 is allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the remaining claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn. The attached Second Friel Declaration addresses various points raised by Examiner Shakeri in the Office Action with regard to why it would not be obvious to combine the references as suggested in the Office Action and result in the inventions defined in the various claims. There is no motivation from the prior art to make the suggested combinations. In particular, nothing in any of the references relied upon even remotely discloses or suggests the desirability or indeed the possibility of obtaining a micro serrated edge. To combine the references in order to obtain the results of the claimed invention must involve hindsight where the only "motivation" is based upon the claims in this application themselves as the suggestion for such combination.

Rather than repeat the discussions detailed in the attached Second Friel Declaration, the contents of that Second Friel Declaration are incorporated herein and Examiner Shakeri is respectfully requested to carefully review and consider those comments.

In view of the above it is submitted that this application should be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,
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Fig. 17.

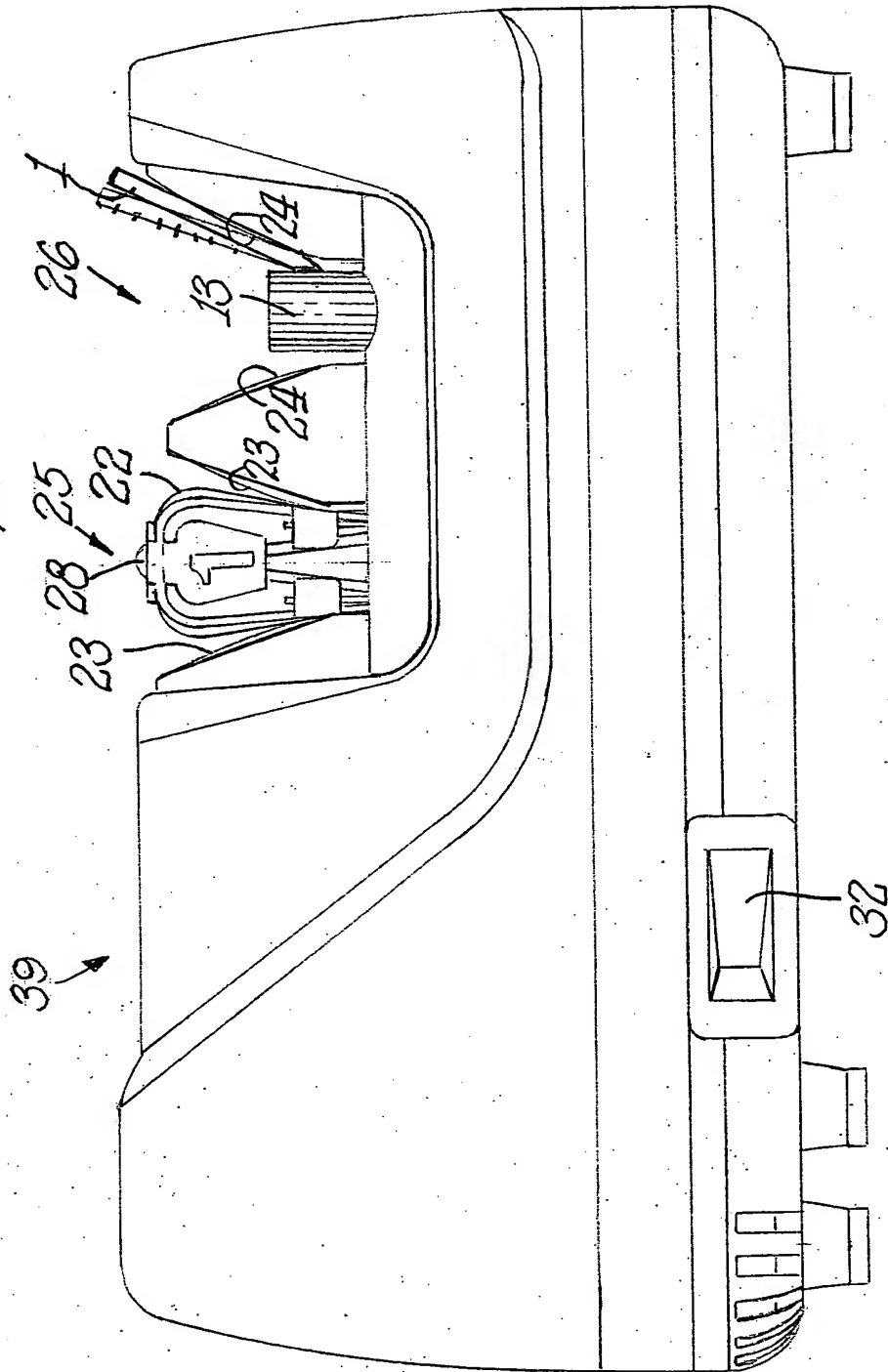


Fig. 18.

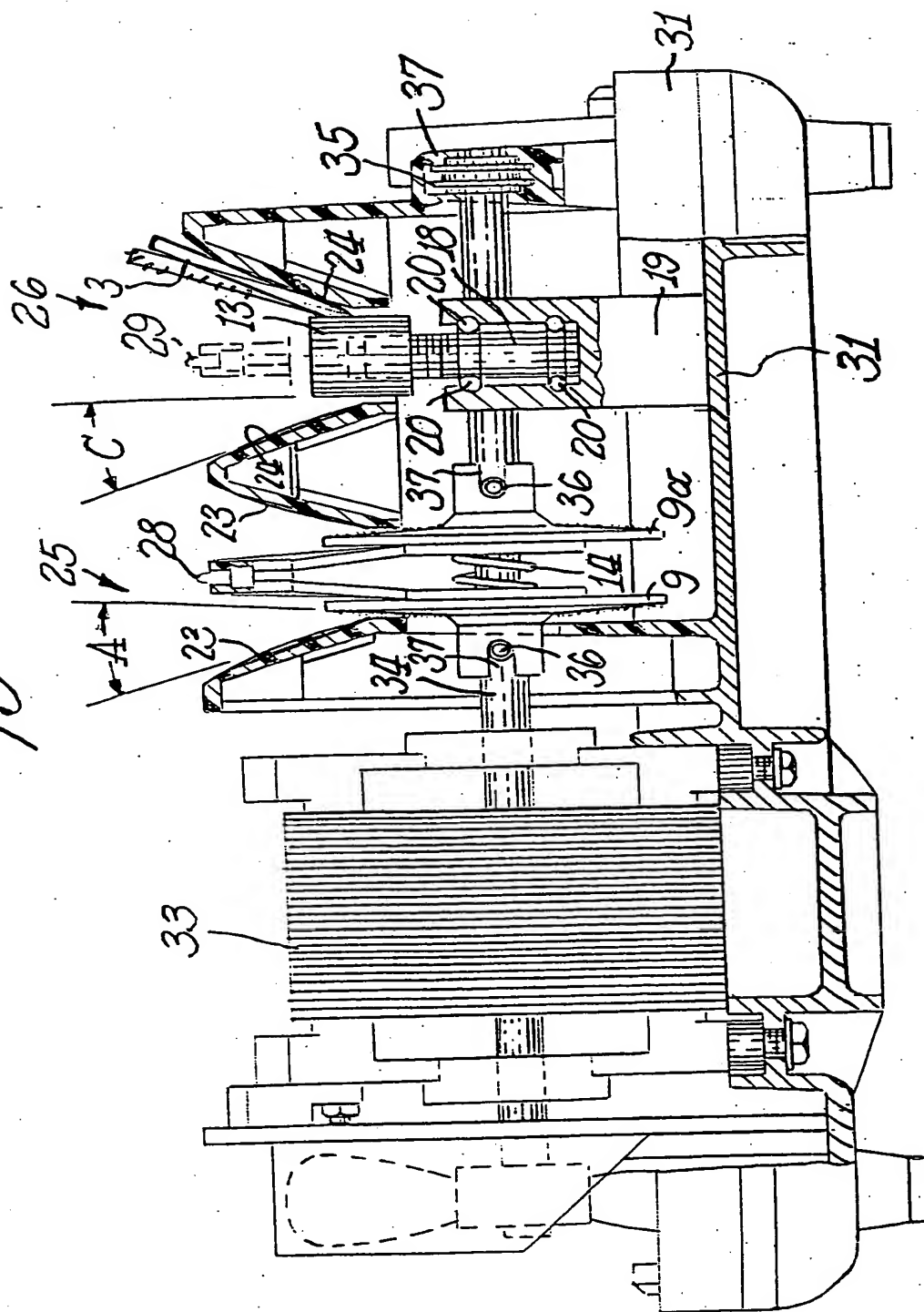


Fig. 19.

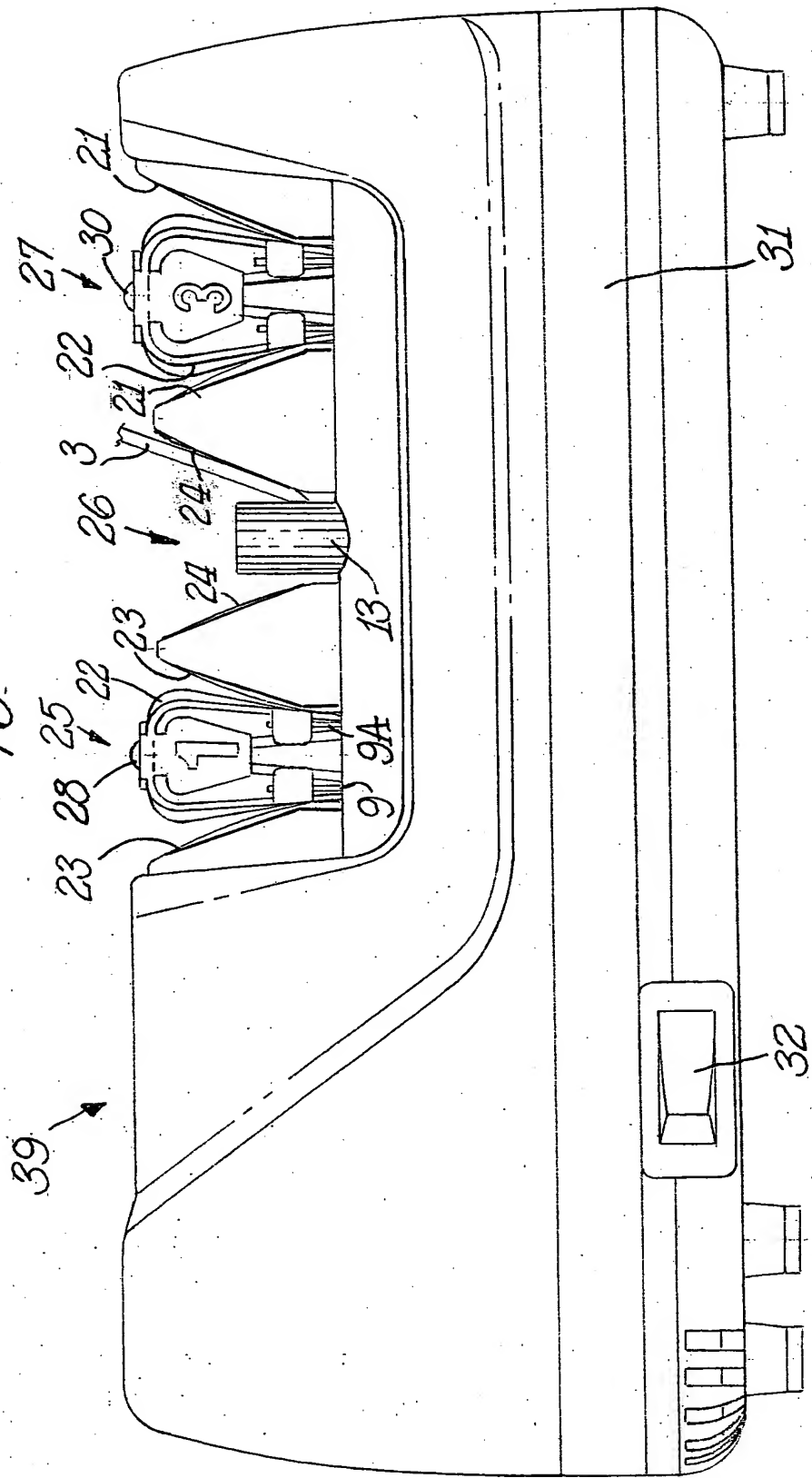


Fig. 20.

